

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241740

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN, XD, US

SUBJECT: NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: IN OCTOBER 8 MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY,
NEPALESE FONMIN ARYAL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S.
FRIENDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BUT ASKED ABOUT
U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WILL TO ASSIST NEPAL MAINTAIN
ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT
OF MAJOR CHANGES IN ASIAN SCENE. DEPUTY SECRETARY
EMPHASIZED U.S. INTENDED CONTINUE MAINTAIN INTEREST AND
INFLUENCE IN ASIA, WOULD WORK WITH NEPAL WITHIN LIMITED
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RESOURCES IN DEVELOPMENT AREAS TO WHICH GON ATTACHED

IMPORTANCE. DEPUTY SECRETARY ALSO ASKED FOR NEPALESE SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA. END SUMMARY.

2. NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER KRISHNA RAJ ARYAL CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY OCTOBER 8 FOLLOWING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY IN ARYAL'S HONOR. CHARGE RIMAL AND MFA OFFICER RANA SAT IN ON NEPALESE SIDE; DUBS AND LORTON FOR U.S.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY OPENED CONVERSATION BY CITING LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEPAL AND U.S. AND NOTING BOTH COUNTRIES SHARED MANY SIMILAR ASPIRATIONS. NOTING CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP NEPAL HAD WITH INDIA, DEPUTY SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SEEMED TO BE MODERATING.

4. FONMIN SAID HE THOUGHT RELATIONS WITH INDIA WOULD IMPROVE FOLLOWING KING BIRENDRA'S OVERNIGHT STAY AND ARYAL'S OWN VISIT IN AUGUST. FROM NEPAL'S PERSPECTIVE, IMPROVEMENT MEANS NO PROBLEMS WITH FLOW OF GOODS INTO NEPAL, NO CUSTOMS DIFFICULTIES, AND CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT MATERIALS AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

5. CALLING U.S. "ONE OF OUR GOOD FRIENDS," FONMIN SAID NEPAL RESPECTED AND RELIED ON U.S. HIS OBJECTIVE IN HAVING TALKS IN WASHINGTON WAS TO GAIN A CLEARER IDEA OF U.S. POLICY IN ASIA SO NEPAL COULD WORK AND PLAN FURTHER. CITING THIS YEAR'S DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA, BANGLADESH, INDIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST, ARYAL ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT U.S. INTERESTS AND COMMITMENTS IN ASIA: THAILAND, BURMA, KOREA, INDIA, AND CHINA. HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW CLOSELY U.S. WOULD SUPPORT SOUTH KOREA, FOR EXAMPLE.

6. ARYAL ASKED ABOUT U.S. INTEREST IN NEPAL IN CONTEXT OF RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND CHINA. NEPAL, FOR ITS PART, DID NOT WANT TO SPEAK AGAINST U.S. IN INTERNATIONAL FORA (AND IN FACT HAD BEEN ONE OF FIRST COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STAND AT SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION).
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BUT ARYAL SAID NEPAL WAS WORRIED ABOUT ITS OWN SECURITY AFTER THE INDIAN EMERGENCY. IF MRS. GANDHI WERE TO BE REPLACED OR IF SHE WERE TO REMAIN WITH CONSIDERABLY INCREASED POWER, WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN FOR NEPAL?

7. RECALLING U.S. SUPPORT FOR NEPALESE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE, ARYAL OBSERVED THAT NEPAL HAD WATCHED PAKISTAN DISMEMBERED AND WONDERED WHAT A BIG POWER

WOULD DO WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS TO A SMALL POWER. HE VIEWED NEPAL'S "ZONE OF PEACE" PROPOSAL IN THIS CONTEXT, ASSERTING NEPAL WANTED TO MAINTAIN BALANCE BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA IN SOUTH ASIA. ACCORDING ARYAL, CHINA HAS RECOGNIZED PROPOSAL. INDIA HAS NOT. INDIA AT FIRST SAID IT HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD PROPOSAL; NOW GOI SAID IT DID BUT WAS NOT OPENLY SUPPORTING IT. IF ONE OF NEPAL'S NEIGHBORS DOES NOT AGREE TO PROPOSAL, WILL THE U.S. GIVE PROPOSAL ITS SUPPORT?

8. TURNING TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, ARYAL SAID U.S. HELP WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED, BUT QUERIED WHETHER IT WAS NOT BETTER FOR U.S. TO CONCENTRATE RESOURCES IN ONE AREA OF DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WOULD HELP TO STRENGTHEN PRESENT LEADERSHIP IN NEPAL AND CONTRIBUTE TO NEPALESE FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY. WE COULD CONCENTRATE IN AGRICULTURE, OR HEALTH SERVICES, OR DEVELOPMENT OF AIR CARGO FACILITIES, OR IMPORT SUBSTITUTION, ALL OF WHICH COULD INCREASE NEPALESE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT U.S. DO THOROUGHLY WHATEVER IT UNDERTOOK. NEPAL ALSO WELCOMED U.S. AID THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS BUT THIS WAS NOT ALWAYS SUITABLE IN ALL DEVELOPMENT SPHERES.

9. DEPUTY SECRETARY WONDERED WHETHER FONMIN FELT U.S. AID, PRESENTLY SPREAD OVER SEVERAL AREAS, WOULD BE MORE USEFUL IF CONCENTRATED IN ONE AREA. ARYAL REPLIED THAT WHATEVER U.S. ATTITUDE ON AID, PROJECTS SHOULD COVER BEGINNING TO END. DEPUTY SECRETARY FELT THAT AID PROGRAMS HAD TO BE MUTUALLY WORKED OUT, NOTED U.S. WILLING CONSIDER ANY PROJECT BUT LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABLE RESOURCES MUST BE RECOGNIZED. FOR EXAMPLE, DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN NEPAL WOULD REQUIRE

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CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED. IT WAS ALSO OBSERVED THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE WAS ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES DIRECTING ASSISTANCE TO SECTORS SUCH AS NUTRITION, AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, AND POPULATION. NONETHELESS, IT WAS UP TO GON TO SET ITS PRIORITIES AND WE WOULD WORK WITH THEM ON SUITABLE PROJECTS.

10. TURNING TO POLITICAL SIDE, DEPUTY SECRETARY TALKED OF RECENTLY COMPLETED CHAVAN VISIT AND DESCRIBED DISCUSSIONS U.S. HAD HAD WITH INDIANS ON COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF ECONOMICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND CULTURE. DURING OUR BILATERAL TALKS WE HAD STATED THAT INDIA WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN SOUTH ASIA, WHILE ALSO

STRESSING RESPONSIBILITY INDIA HAS TO TREAT ITS NEIGHBORS FAIRLY AND RECOGNIZE THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO FORCE INDIA TO AGREE WITH NEPAL ON ANY PARTICULAR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE, BUT WE EXPECT TO MAINTAIN OUR INFLUENCE IN AREA. DUBS POINTED OUT SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE WAS PEACE AND STABILITY IN AREA AND THAT THIS REQUIRED CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS AMONG ALL SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES.

11. DEPUTY SECRETARY ADDED U.S. INTENDS REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT POWER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. BURMA SEEMS WILLING

HAVE MORE CONTACT WITH U.S. WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE CLEARLY TOLD THAI GOVERNMENT THAT WE INTEND CONTINUE OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM. AT SAME TIME WE RECOGNIZE REALIGNMENT IN AREA MAY LEAD TO A DESIRE FOR DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA AND USSR.

12. AS FOR SOUTH KOREA, ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS ALIKE HAVE INDICATED WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE HAD SPONSORED FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IN EFFORT TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN AREA. WE WILL NOT PERMIT ADMISSION OF VIETNAMS AS LONG AS SOUTH KOREA IS EXCLUDED FROM UN. WE FEEL WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED OUR SUPPORT AND WOULD LIKE NEPAL'S SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. KISSINGER
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